

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on May 9, 2003, Applicants submit herewith an election of a restricted group with traversal. Please consider the following remarks.

**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-48 are pending in the present application.

**Election of Invention**

The Examiner has restricted the pending claims into Groups I and II. In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect the claims of Group II (Claims 8-48) for prosecution in the present application. Because Applicants do not believe that the searching requirements in this case constitute an undue burden, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement.

**Request for a Telephone Conference**

The Examiner has characterized the claims of Group II as being drawn to both a polymer and a method of making the same. Applicants do not believe that the searching requirements for the claims of Group II constitute a burden sufficient for a further Restriction Requirement to issue in this case. However, if the Examiner believes a further Restriction Requirement is necessary, Applicants wish to expedite that process in two ways. First, Applicants respectfully request a telephone conference at the number provided below. Second, in order to avoid the delay in selecting a new Examiner for unfamiliar claims, Applicants request guidance on which Group II claims are most relevant to the Examiner's area of expertise.

Appl. No. 09/963,858  
Amtd. dated June 5, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2003

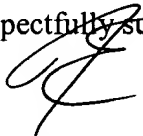
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Todd Esker  
Reg. No. 46,690

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 415-576-0200  
Fax: 415-576-0300  
TE  
SF 1465848 v1